



Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

<http://wwnrt.state.wy.us>



- ▶ Established in 2005 by Wyoming Legislature
- ▶ Funded by appropriation, interest, and donations
- ▶ Goal is a minimum of \$200 million in trust account
- ▶ Intent to generate \$8 to \$10 million each year for projects
- ▶ May be less than needed

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- ▶ Guided by nine member Board, appointed from judicial districts by the Governor, and confirmed by Wyoming Senate
 - ▶ Interests include local government, oil and gas, agriculture, recreation, tourism, mining
 - ▶ Originally three-year terms, re-appointable –
Changed to single six-year terms in 2011
 - ▶ Board meets six times annually throughout the state

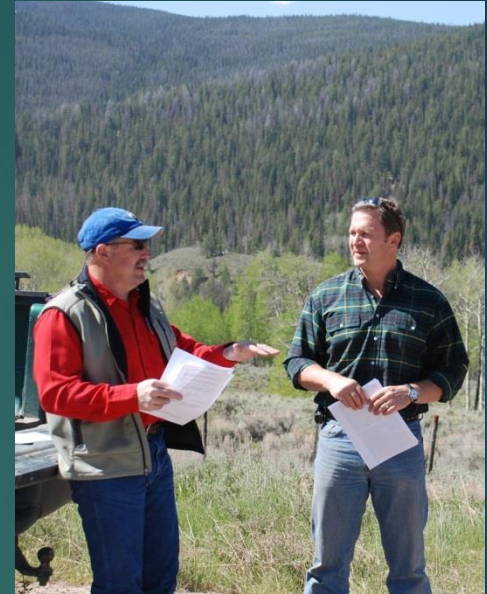
Board Members



Chairman Kim
Floyd,
Cheyenne
District 1 –
Laramie
County



Christi Haswell,
Sheridan
District 5 –
Johnson,
Sheridan



Vice Chair Steve
Meadows,
Jackson
District 9 – Teton,
Fremont, Sublette

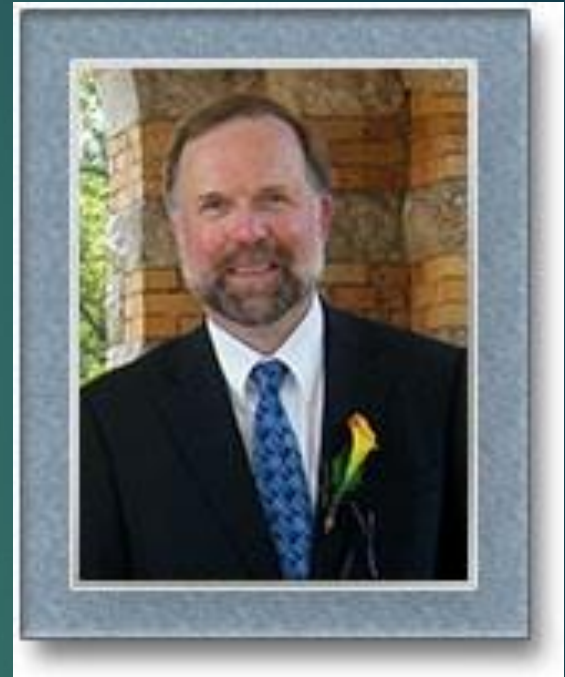
Board Members



Don Schramm, Rock
Springs
District 3 – Lincoln,
Sweetwater, Uinta



Esther Wagner, Casper
District 8 - Natrona County



Mike Massie, Laramie
District 2 – Carbon,
Albany

Board Members



Jacelyn Downey,
Moorcroft
District 6 – Campbell,
Crook, Weston



Ken Banister,
Torrington
District 7 – Platte,
Goshen, Niobrara,
Converse



Pidge Fulton, Powell
District 4 – Park, Big Horn, Hot
Springs, Washakie



BOARD PURPOSE

- ▶ Board has extremely broad mandate to enhance wildlife habitat and natural resources
 - ▶ Improve and maintain terrestrial habitat
 - ▶ Preservation of open spaces by acquisition of development rights
 - ▶ Improve and maintain aquatic habitat
 - ▶ Acquisition of terrestrial or aquatic habitat
 - ▶ Conservation, maintenance, protection and development of wildlife resources
 - ▶ Water enhancement projects
 - ▶ Mitigate impacts detrimental to wildlife habitat, the environment and multiple use of renewable natural resources
 - ▶ Mitigate conflicts and reduce potential for disease

BOARD PURPOSE

- ▶ Program serves several capacities, including program funding, mitigation, and “banking”
- ▶ Recent challenges include bark beetle and post-fire rehabilitation
- ▶ Emerging challenges can be addressed quickly and effectively
- ▶ Very few projects are “off limits”



PROHIBITIONS

- ▶ Cannot purchase land
- ▶ Cannot purchase water rights
- ▶ Cannot introduce “endangered” species
- ▶ Cannot require public access

PROCESS - APPLICATIONS

- ▶ Application available online
- ▶ Limited to sponsorship by governmental agencies or non-profit organizations
- ▶ Submissions year-around
- ▶ Design assistance by staff
- ▶ Two funding periods
 - ▶ Applications processed 3/01 and 9/01
 - ▶ Grants awarded June and December

PROCESS – INITIAL REVIEW

- ▶ Preliminary reviews and rankings in April and October
- ▶ 100 point scorecard used to evaluate projects
- ▶ Initial ranking of 1, 2, or 3 based on application
- ▶ Projects are reviewed based on initial scoring by all board members (9-27)

PROJECT APPLICATION WORKSHEET				
Habitat and Natural Resources		Feasibility	Financing and Permitting	
DIRECT benefit to fish & wildlife	NATURAL RESOURCES	METHODOLOGY	MATCHING FUNDS	
benefits both =3	water quality/quantity +1	well-designed, achievable +2	matching > 80% =10	
benefits aquatic & fish =1.5	soil loss +1	methods proven & sound +1	matching > 60% =8	
benefits terrestrial =1.5	air quality +1	reasonable size & scale +1	matching > 40% =6	
benefits non-game +1	other +1	highly innovative =2	matching > 20% =4	
			matching < 20% =2	
SCALE of multiple habitats	OPEN SPACE	PROJECT LIFE		
wetland, riparian, aquatic +1	conserves open space =4	permanent =4	FUND COMMITMENT	
grassland, shrub, desert +1		life > 50 years =3	> 50% committed =5	
aspen, conifer, forest +1	MULTIPLE USE BENEFITS	life > 25 years < 50 years =2	< 50% committed =3	
unique habitat types +1	maintains multiple uses =4	life < 25 years =1		
			PERMITTING	
EXPANSION potential	Cooperative Effort	ASSURANCES	all permits approved =5	
connects to existing =4		easement, covenant, etc. =4	all permits submitted =3	
documented potential =3	PARTNERSHIPS in place	transferrable agreements =3	permit status varies =1	
potential exists, uncertain =2	landowners +2	other =2		
limited potential =1	county government +2			
	state government +2	SUSTAINABILITY	RAW SCORE	0
VULNERABLE habitats	federal land agencies +2	little or no maintenance =4		
migration or connectivity +1	non-government +2	occasional maintenance =3	Other Considerations +1-3	
crucial seasonal habitat +1		annual maintenance =2	geographic distribution	
disease or health +1		more than annual =1	project diversity	
potential human conflict +1	OUTREACH POTENTIAL		urgency (biological)	
	easily replicated +1	ECONOMIC RETURN	urgency (social)	
EXISTING THREATS	demonstration plan +1	project enhances uses =4	other (note reason)	
currently being altered =4	monitoring in place +1	project allows uses =2		
adjacent habitats altered =3	research potential +1		TOTAL SCORE	0
serious threat < 5 years =2	educational potential +1	COST-EFFECTIVENESS		
serious threat > 5 years =1		long-term, high leverage =4		
	PUBLIC ACCESS	long-term, mod. leverage =2		
DIRECT CAUSE OF LOSS	expands current access =5	short-term, high leverage =3		
addresses direct threat =4	maintains current access =3	short-term, mod. leverage =1		
	allows limited access =2			

PROCESS – SITE VISITS



If projects have merit, site visits are assigned to at least two members of the Board and staff.

PROCESS – SITE VISITS



In one year, as many as 80 site visits will be conducted in all 23 counties of the state.

PROCESS – SITE VISITS



Site visits are intensive and extensive reviews of budget, biological application, legal issues, and project “readiness”

PROCESS – SITE VISITS



WWNRT site visits are a unique process, and one of the main elements that assure success on the ground.

PROCESS – GRANT AWARDS

- ▶ Successful applications are awarded a contract for services, payable upon completion of the described work. No money is awarded in advance.
- ▶ “Large Projects,” defined as those receiving \$200,000 or more from WWNRT, require legislative approval.
- ▶ A “large project” that is funded is reviewed at least 18 separate times before payment is made, by the agency, legislature, governor, attorney general, and fiscal division.

SELECTION CRITERIA



- ▶ **Habitat and Natural Resource Value = 40%**
 - ▶ Direct benefits to wildlife and natural resources
 - ▶ Indirect benefits
 - ▶ Scale of project
 - ▶ Connectivity and potential for expansion
 - ▶ Vulnerability (Urgency)
 - ▶ Cause or Effect?

SELECTION CRITERIA

- ▶ **Cooperation and Partnership = 20%**
 - Broad-based efforts
 - Essential partners included and active
 - More is better

SELECTION CRITERIA



- ▶ **Financing and Permitting = 20%**
 - ▶ Matching funds
 - ▶ Funding in hand
 - ▶ Matching funds include in-kind efforts for planning, design, monitoring, and previous investments in resource enhancement
 - ▶ Status of permitting (Readiness)

SELECTION CRITERIA



- ▶ **Feasibility and Longevity = 20%**
 - ▶ Feasibility (reliability of methodology)
 - ▶ Longevity of project
 - ▶ Assurances in place
 - ▶ Economic integrity

SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS



- ▶ The primary objective is conservation on the ground
- ▶ Projects should offer a definite outcome, and not merely supplement local operations
- ▶ Short-term attack strategies are highly preferable to sustained efforts
- ▶ Outcome-based strategies are critical

PROGRAM IS EXTREMELY FLEXIBLE

- Contracts may be for multiple years
- Program allows for changes in projects due to natural conditions, budget changes, and other constraints
- Key to success is communication

SUCCESS ON THE GROUND

► PROGRESS TO DATE

- 1,400+ applications = 1,000+ grants
- \$110 million investment = \$800 million return
- Projects in every Wyoming county
- More than 140 sponsoring organizations



SUCCESS ON THE GROUND

TYPES OF PROJECTS

River Restoration/ Fish Passage = 26%

Aspen Enhancement = 8%

Conservation Easements = 16%

Water Development = 8%

Invasive Species = 10%

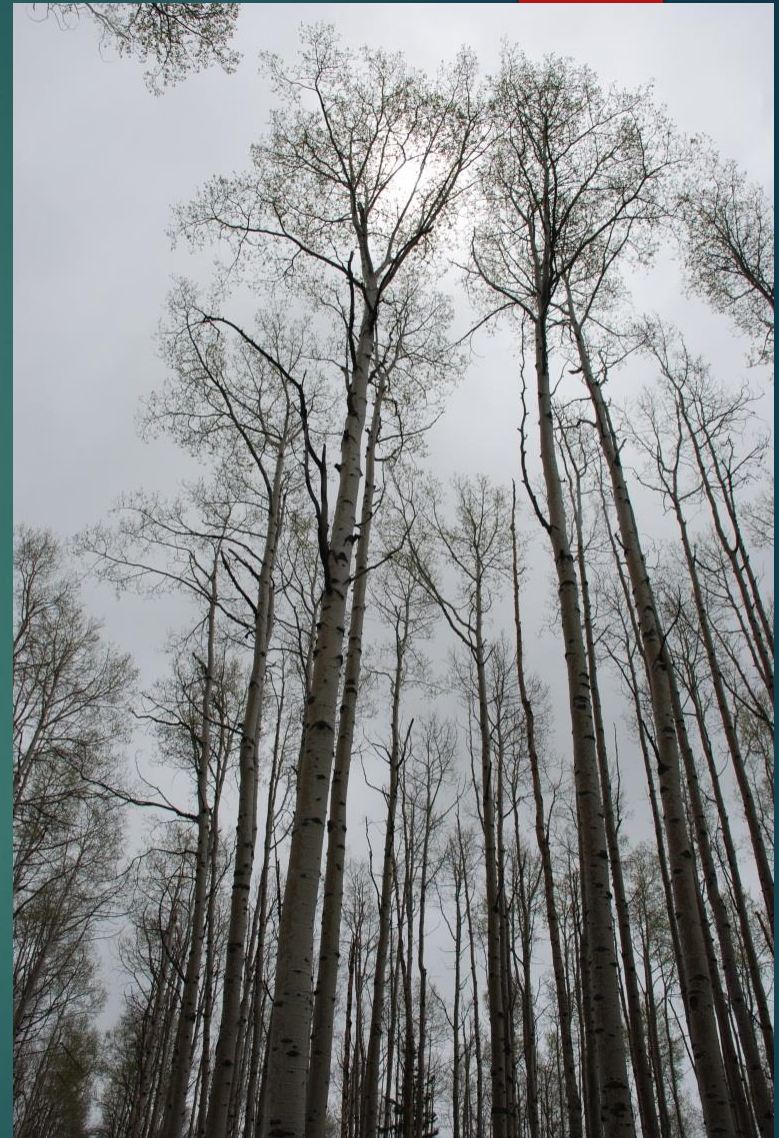
Rangeland Enhancements = 16%

Wetland Development = 8%

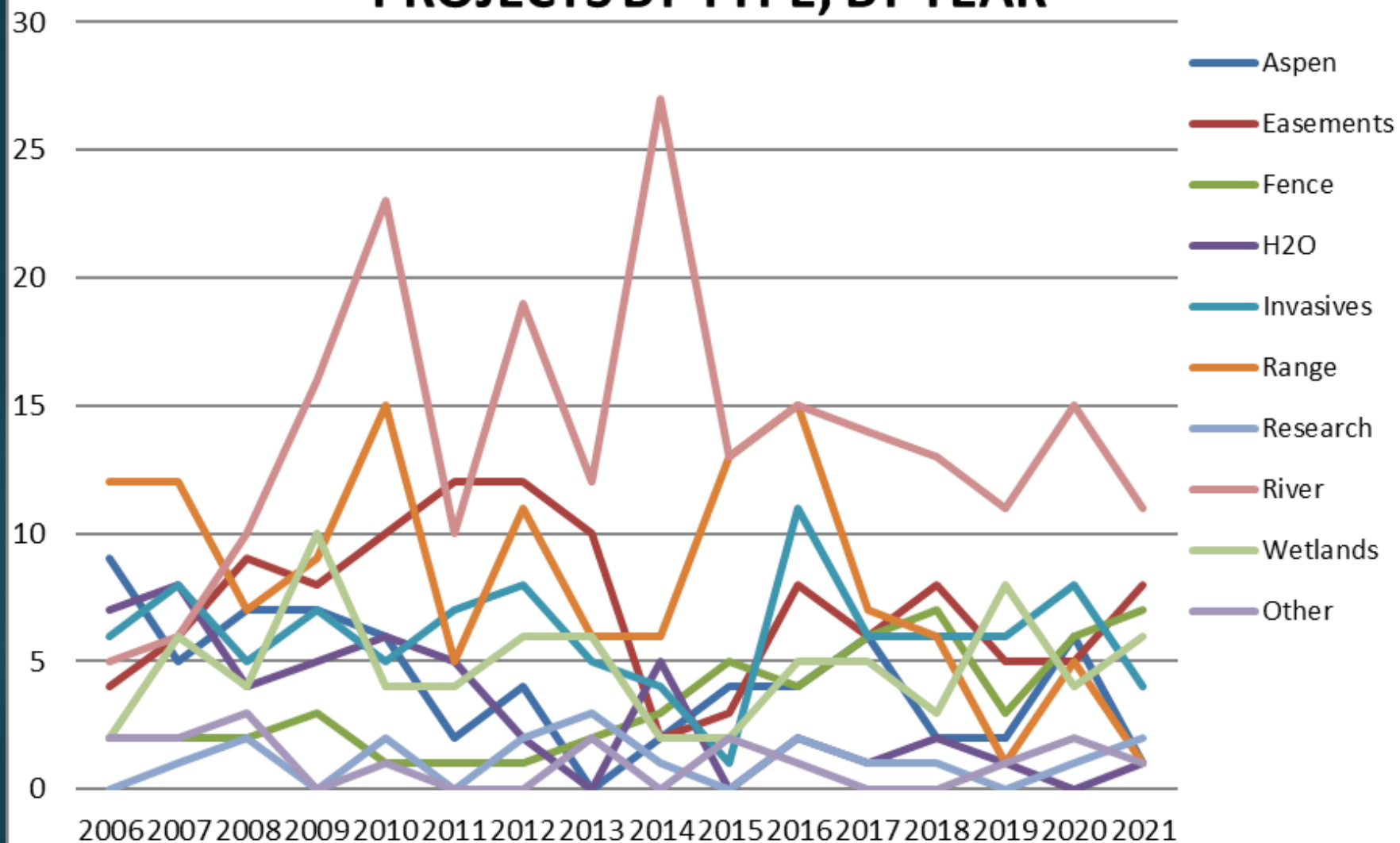
Fence Modification = 4%

Research and Inventory = 2%

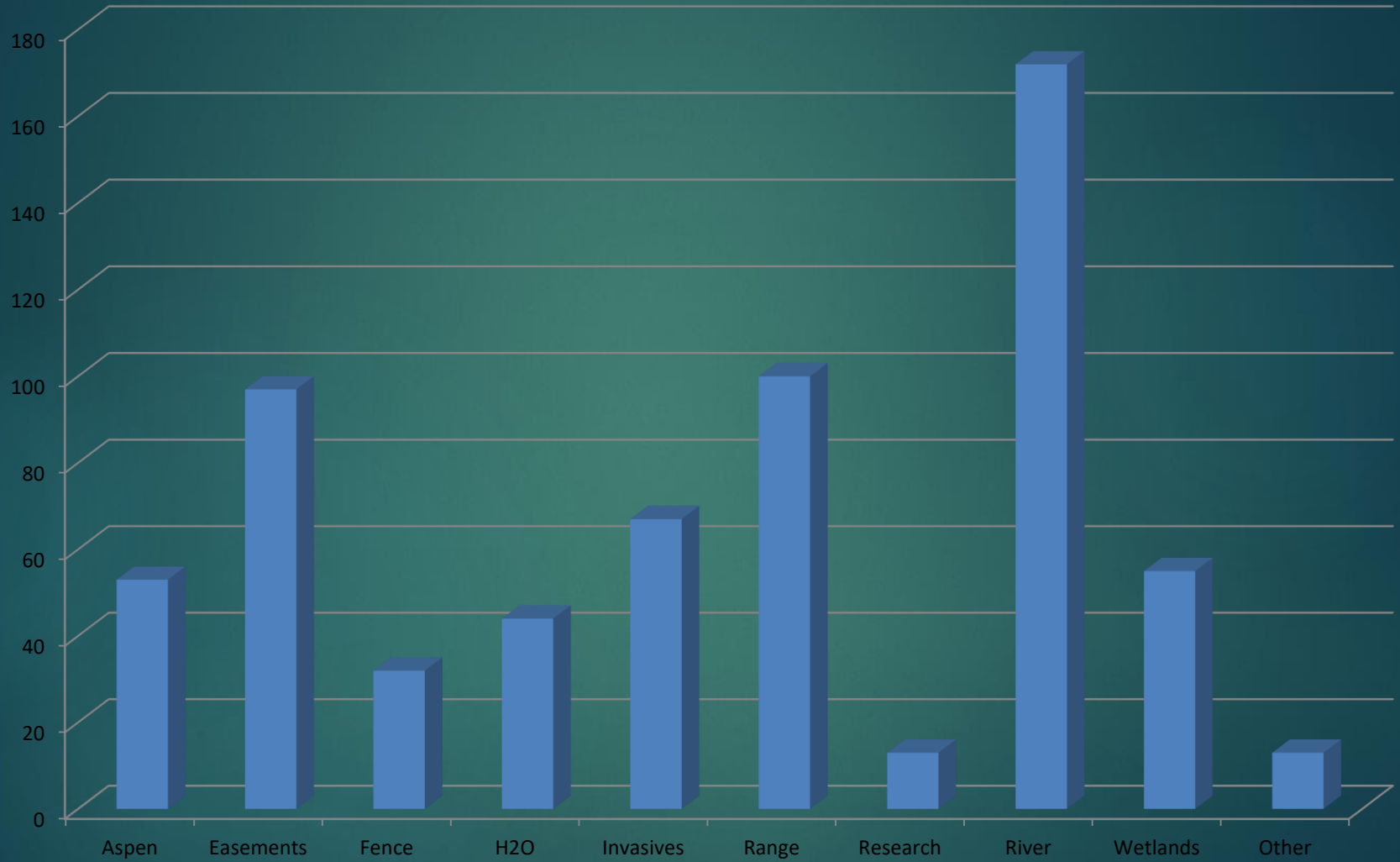
Other = 2%



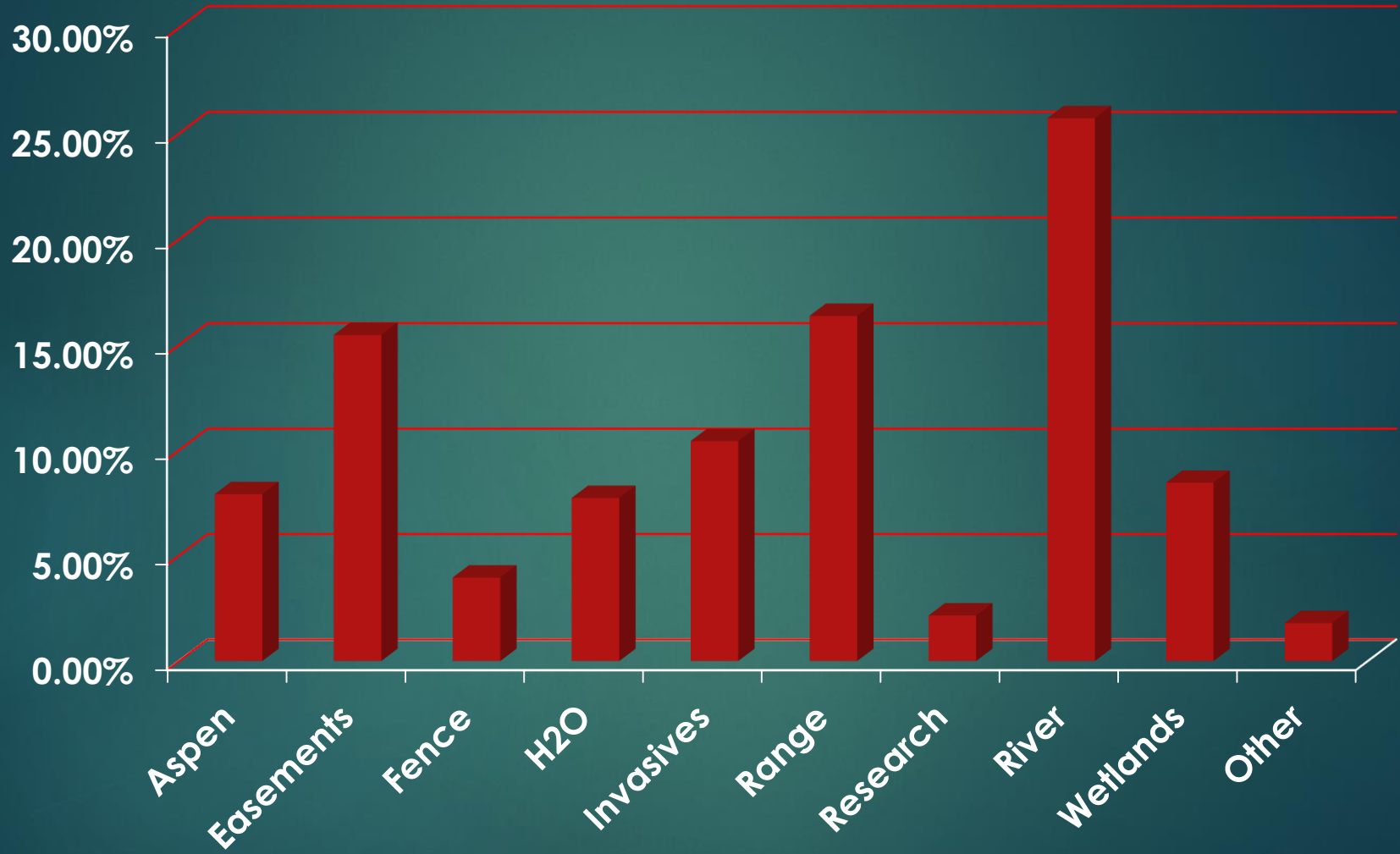
PROJECTS BY TYPE, BY YEAR



Number of Projects By Type



Project Types By Percentage



SUCCESS ON THE GROUND

Project requests vary from year to year, based on:

1. Ecological needs (river restoration, irrigation infrastructure)
2. Partner capacity (number of active projects)
3. Matching funds (NRCS Sage-grouse Initiative)
4. Permitting status (wetlands, water development)
5. Weather and anticipated activity levels
6. New knowledge and techniques
7. Partner expertise (focus of work)
8. Stage of existing projects (initiation vs. completion)

SUCCESS ON THE GROUND

Project costs vary depending on a variety of factors:

1. Method of work (fire, mechanical, chemical)
2. Application type (aerial, hand crews)
3. Matching funds (leverage decreases with time)
4. Duration of project (one-time vs. multiple years)
5. Unexpected conditions (river restoration)
6. Terrain
7. Scale of interest (Lake DeSmet, Thunder Basin, Bates Creek)

ECONOMIC IMPACTS



- \$315,000 per \$100,000 spent
- 34.4 job months per \$100,000 spent
- 2.9 permanent jobs per \$100,000 spent
- \$4.00 gain for each \$1.00 invested

KEY PARTNERS

GRANT RECIPIENTS BY CATEGORY

- Conservation Districts – 20%
- State Agencies – 22%
- Non-Profit Organizations – 24%
- Federal Agencies – 13%
- Land Trusts – 15%
- Local Government – 5%
- Other – 1%

ASPEN ENHANCEMENT

- Second-highest species richness
- High fire resistance/tolerance
- Improve water yield
- Maintain seasonal habitats for a wide array of species
- Increase water infiltration



CONSERVATION EASEMENTS



- Maintain agricultural economy
- Retain tourism potential
- Assure habitat for wildlife
- Maintain watershed function
- Decrease cost to local government
- Address ESA listing criteria
- Provide management flexibility

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS



- One-time investment
- Highest leverage of all projects
- Traditional ranch families
- High habitat values
- Appraisal driven
- Safeguards for development of mineral resources
- High level of matching funds in 2010 -2011
- Endangered Species Act
- Agricultural integrity
- Tourism enhancement

WATER DEVELOPMENT



- Provide water for wildlife and livestock
- Improve pasture management
- Improve habitat conditions
- Increase profit potential
- Match other funding sources
- Create habitat mosaics

INVASIVE SPECIES

- Increase forage production
- Increase usable habitat
- Restore water cycles
- Increase stream flows
- Restore wetland habitats
- Reduce flooding potential



RANGELAND ENHANCEMENTS

- Increase forage production
- Restore natural vegetation
- Increase water retention
- Decrease erosion
- Retain ecosystem resiliency
- Improve water quality
- Allow management options



RIVER RESTORATION – FISH PASSAGE



- More than 1,000 miles of stream reconnected statewide
- Comprehensive approach to enhance irrigation infrastructure
- Direct approach to preclude listing of aquatic species
- Documented increase in water quality
- Enhanced recreational opportunity

WETLAND ESTABLISHMENT



- Increase local water retention
- Provide aquatic habitats
- Reduce flooding potential
- Improve water quality
- Increase forage production
- Improve irrigation efficiency
- Enhance species diversity

OTHER PROJECTS



- Wildlife Migration
- Disease prevention
- Reclamation
- Research
- Mapping



SUMMARY

- ▶ As of June 2022, the Board has allocated approximately \$111 million for projects
- ▶ Projects have generated more than \$800 million in economic activity on the landscape
- ▶ For every dollar spent by the WWNRT, the state receives \$5.75 in matching funds



QUESTIONS?